

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NEA-09 /061 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4776

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS VIENNA 1200

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF "AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE DOMINICK STORY"

DEPARTMENT FOR BRUCE FLATIN EUR/CE

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, IWE, IOP/M

1. SUMMARY: TWO VIENNA DAILIES, THE PRESTIGIOUS "DIE PRESSE" AND THE MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID, "KURIER," PRINTED THE "DOMINICK STORY" ON PAGE 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY; AUSTRIA PRESS AGENCY (APA) CARRIED TWO AP STORIES, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE DOMINICK'S CLARIFICATION, ON FEBRUARY 11. SINCE MOST AUSTRIAN PAPERS SUBSCRIBE TO APA, ADDITIONAL PICK UP IS LIKELY IN THE PROVINCIAL PRESS. APPARENTLY AUSTRIAN TV AND RADIO HAVE NOT YET CARRIED THE REPORT (BUT THE MISSION HAS NOT MONITORED ALL NEWSCASTS). END SUMMARY.

2. THE "KURIER" ARTICLE, ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTO OF AMB-DESIGNATE DOMINICK, CARRIED HEADLINE "US SUPPLIES VIA SWITZERLAND?" AND A SUB-HEADLINE PEGGED ON AUSTRIAN ARMY HIGH COMMANDER GENERAL SPANNOCCHI'S STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SHAM NEUTRALITY OF AUSTRIA. FULL TRANSLATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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"KURIER" ARTICLE FOLLOWS:

"THE US AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO SWITZERLAND HAS MADE A 'CRASH LANDING.' EVEN BEFORE ENTERING OFFICE, PETER DOMINICK - THE DEFEATED COLORADO SENATOR - TOLD SWISS JOURNALISTS THAT ONE OF HIS MAIN TASKS IS GOING TO BE TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF THE RIGHT TO OVERFLY SWITZERLAND IN THE EVENT OF A MIDEAST CRISIS.

"THE UNCAUTIOUS US DIPLOMAT THEREBY STEPPED ON THE SENSITIVE SWISS NEUTRALITY NERVE. A STORM OF INDIGNATION HAS BEEN RAGING THROUGH THE SWISS PAPERS AND THE BERN FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND IMMEDIATE DENIALS FROM WASHINGTON HAVE FAILED TO PRODUCE A (QUIETING) EFFECT. "THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSPORTS OF US WAR MATERIAL VIA SWITZERLAND TO THE MIDDLE EAST CAUSED A STIR ALREADY IN THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR.

"THERE WERE RUMORS IN AUSTRIA AT THAT TIME THAT THESE (US MILITARY) PLANES WERE FLYING TO ISRAEL THROUGH OUR AIR SPACE. 'THESE WERE JUST RUMORS,' AUSTRIAN ARMY (SUPREME) COMMANDER EMIL SPANNOCCHI TOLD THE "KURIER"; 'THERE IS NO SHAM NEUTRALITY OF OUR COUNTRY.' (HE ADDED THAT) THERE ARE ONLY THREE CASES IN WHICH (FOREIGN) MILITARY AIRCARFT ARE PERMITTED OVERFLIGHTS:

"# IN AN EMERGENCY, E.G. TO AVOID A CRASH;

"# MERCY FLIGHTS WITH SICK AND WOUNDED;

"# VIP FLIGHTS SUCH AS THE RECENT FLIGHT OF A (GERMAN) BUDNDESWEHR PLANE WITH THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER TO ROMANIA.

#SPANNOCCHI LIKED THE IDEA OF AUSTRIANS INSPECTING US AIRCRAFT BEFORE THEY TAKE OFF IN GERMANY: 'WE AUSTRIANS, TOO, COULD DO THAT.'

3. INDEPENDENT "DIE PRESSE" USED THE AP REPORT. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "MILITARY FLIGHTS OVER SWITZERLAND?," AND THE SUB-HEAD, "INTERVIEW OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BERN CAUSES SENSATION," THE PAPER WROTE:

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"MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES ABROAD ARE MAKING HEADLINES. AFTER DISCLOSURES OF CONSIDERABLE AID IN THE MILITARY TRAINING OF SAUDI ARABIANS, THE NEWLY NOMINATED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND, PETER DOMINICK, HAS UPSET THE SWISS ON QUITE ANOTHER ISSUE. IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED BY THE 'ZUERCHER TAGESANZEIGER' AND THE 'TRIBUNE DE GENEVE,' THE DIPLOMAT SAID -- ACCORDING TO IDENTICAL REPORTS -- THAT 'THE QUESTION OF THE

RIGHT TO OVERFLY (SWITZERLAND) IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST' IS A MAJOR PROBLEM HE WILL HAVE TO  
DEAL WITH IN HIS OFFICE.

"THE REPORTS QUOTED DOMINICK AS SAYING THAT LOW-LEVEL  
CONTACTS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PENTAGON AND  
OF THE SWISS ARMED FORCES HAVE ALREADY BEEN GOING ON.  
THESE REPORTS HAVE CAUSED MUCH ALARM IN THE SWISS PAR-  
LIAMENT, AND A DENIAL OF THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF  
STATE HAS HARDLY HELPED DISPEL IT SO FAR. SINCE THE  
INTERVIEW HE GAVE LAST WEEK, NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD  
FROM DOMINICK."HUMES

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## Message Attributes

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